



Testimony of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
Transportation Committee
Friday, March 12

Senate Bill 427 – An Act Concerning the Use of Hand-Held Mobile Telephones and Mobile Electronic Devices by Motor Vehicle Operators

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is a trade association of eleven car and light truck manufacturers including BMW Group, Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes Benz, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen. The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and its members have long recognized the risks of distracted driving and support appropriate laws with high-visibility enforcement.

Senate Bill 427 prohibits, among other things, *typing, sending or reading a text message* by a driver while the vehicle is in motion. The Alliance supports this prohibition; however the way the bill is currently written, it would inadvertently prohibit the use of devices that rely on text-based communication that are physically and electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.

To enable the use of such hands-free integrated technology, the Alliance would respectfully suggest the following amendments to Senate Bill 427:

- Line 18: delete "telephone" and replace with "device"
- Line 19: insert "or a mobile electronic device" after telephone
- Line 21: strike "hand-held mobile telephone" and replace with "device"
- Line 21: insert "or types, send, or reads a text message" after "call"
- Line 72: strike "telephone" replace with "device"

The Alliance appreciates the opportunity to work with the Legislature to support legislation that addresses the issue of driver distraction, while also preserving opportunities in the vehicle to enhance safety.

We respectfully ask for the Committee's strong consideration of the suggested amendments to Senate Bill 427. With the inclusion of these amendments, the Alliance of automobile manufacturers would fully support Senate Bill 427 and applaud the State of Connecticut's leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.